

Message Text

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47

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 NEAE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 OMB-01 /059 W

----- 046080

O R 071335Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2113

INFO AMEMBASSY DACCA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

AMCONSUL BOMBAY

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMCONSUL MADRAS

USLO PEKING

USIA WASHDC

USCINCPAC

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR, BG, IN

SUBJ: PRESS REACTION TO BANGLADESH DEVELOPMENTS

REF: NEW DELHI 14769

1. THE MORNING PRESS NOVEMBER 7 GAVE PROMINENT PLAY TO THE VARIOUS WIRE SERVICE ARTICLES ON BANGLADESH DEVELOPMENTS REPORTED REFTEL WHICH ARE MORE EMOTIONAL THAN MATERIALS APPEARING THUS FAR. ALL PAPERS HEADLINED PRESIDENT SAYEM'S DECISION TO DISSOLVE PARLIAMENT. ALTHOUGH THE PRESS COVERAGE WAS OUT OF DATE BY THE TIME THE PAPERS APPEARED ON THE STREET BECAUSE OF THIS MORNING'S FIGHTING, THE EDITORIAL COMMENT IS SIGNIFICANT

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AS FURTHER INDICATION OF HOW THE GOI EVALUATES THE

PLAYERS IN THE CURRENT DRAMA. WE STRONGLY SUSPECT OFFICIAL GUIDANCE ON EDITORIALS BUT HAVE NOT CONFIRMED THIS.

2. THREE OF THE SIX NEW DELHI MORNING PAPERS EDITORIALIZED ON BANGLADESH NOVEMBER 7. PERHAPS THE STRONGEST LANGUAGE IS USED BY THE "INDIAN EXPRESS" WHICH CAPTIONS ITS EDITORIAL "ASSASSINS ABROAD" AND REFERS TO THE MAJORS WHO MUDERED MUJIB AND HIS FAMILY AS "BRUTISH." IMPLYING THAT SOME FOREIGN POWER WAS BEHIND THE MAJORS, THE PAPER ASKS: "HOW AND WITH THE HELP OF WHICH FOREIGN EMBASSY THE ASSASSINS ESCAPED FROM DACCA IS NOT YET CLEAR..." "THESE MEN ARE SEEKING WHAT THEY CALL POLITICAL ASYLUM IN THE US, PAKISTAN OR OTHER UNNAMED COUNTRIES. THEY DID NO SERVICE TO THE TWO COUNTRIES THEY NAMED. THEIR STATEMENT ONLY PROVOKES SPECULATION THAT WHETHER THESE TWO COUNTRIES PROVIDED THEM WITH INSPIRATION AND ASSISTANCE OR NOT, THE PERPETRATORS...ARE PRESSING A CERTAIN CLAIM TO PROTECTION FROM THEM." THE EDITORIAL CONCLUDES THAT IT IS INCONCEIVABLE THAT ANY COUNTRY WILL ACCEPT THEM.

3. THE CPI DAILY "PATRIOT" SEES THE REPLACEMENT OF MUSTAQUE AHMED AS INDICATIVE OF THE RESTORATION OF MUJIB TO THIS RIGHTFUL PLACE IN BANGLADESH HISTORY. THE "PATRIOT" PRAISES PRESIDENT SAYEM AS A MAN WITH A "GREAT REPUTATION FOR HONESTY" AND CONCLUDES THAT THE PEOPLE OF INDIA WISH THE NEW LEADERS OF BANGLADESH SUCCESS.

4. THE UNOFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE CONGRESS PARTY, "THE NATIONAL HERALD," STATED THAT "THIS WEEK'S MILITARY COUP HAS BEEN NO SURPRISE." THE NEW PRESIDENT WILL, ACCORDING TO "THE NATIONAL HERALD," BE LARGELY A "FIGUREHEAD" WITH THE REAL POLITICAL POWER RESIDING WITHIN THE MILITARY COUNCIL. THE PAPER URGES THE COUNCIL TO PROCEED WITH ITS TASKS "SECURE IN THE KNOWLEDGE THAT IT HAS THE SUPPORT NOT ONLY OF THE PEOPLE OF BANGLADESH BUT ALSO OF ALL OTHERS WHO HAVE HER GOOD AT HEART."

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5. COMMENT: THE ABOVE EDITORIALS WERE WRITTEN PRESUMABLY WITHOUT THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE LATEST STRUGGLE WITHIN THE MILITARY WHICH APPARENTLY HAS RESULTED IN MAJOR GENERAL ZIAUR RAHMAN'S COMING OUT ON TOP.
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